

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A joint for a panel, the joint comprising a first edge [[(1)]] and a second edge [[(1<sup>l</sup>)]], whereby the first edge [[(1)]] comprises a groove [[(11)]] and the second edge [[(1<sup>l</sup>)]], is provided with a tongue [[(21)]] wherein the second edge [[(1<sup>l</sup>)]], further comprises an upper side groove [[(12)]], that a joining profile [[(3)]] is provided with a tongue [[(31)]] and an intermediate section [[(33)]], the joining profile [[(3)]] being so configured so as to allowing it to be located in the upper portion of the joint between two, joined, adjacent panels.

2. (Currently Amended) A joint for a panel according to claim 1, the joint comprising a first edge [[(1)]] and a second edge [[(1<sup>l</sup>)]], whereby the first edge [[(1)]] comprises a groove [[(11)]] and the second edge [[(1<sup>l</sup>)]], is provided with a tongue [[(21)]] wherein the first edge further comprises an upper side groove [[(12)]], and the second edge [[(1<sup>l</sup>)]], comprises [[a]] an upper side groove [[(12)]], that a joining profile [[(3)]] is provided with a first and second snapping tongue [[(31)]] and an intermediate section [[(33)]], the joining profile [[(3)]] being so configured so as to allowing the first and second snapping tongue [[(31)]] to be fitted into upper side grooves [[(12)]] of two, joined, adjacent panels.

3. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the joint further comprises mating surfaces (13 and 23 respectively), that the joining profile [[(3)]] and the upper side grooves

[[(12)]] are so configured that a play is created in the joint between the mating surfaces (13 and 23 respectively).

4. (Original) A joint according to claim 3 wherein the play is in the range 0.05 - 1 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 1 wherein the tongue [[(21)]] and the groove [[(11)]] are configured to limit the movement in a vertical direction between two adjacent panels.

6. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the joining profile [[(3)]] and the upper side grooves [[(12)]] are configured to limit the movement in horizontal direction between two adjacent panels.

7. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein a portion [[(P)]] arranged between the upper side groove [[(12)]] and its respective distal edge portion [[(E)]] comprises a recess [[(14)]].

8. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 7 wherein the recess [[(14)]] further comprises one or more supporting protrusions [[(15)]], the supporting protrusions [[(15)]] supporting a lower side of the intermediate section of the joining profile [[(3)]].

9. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the upper side groove [[(12)]] is provided with a first groove edge surface [[(16)]] having an angle  $\alpha$  of 1 - 50° towards a vertical plane.

10. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the first groove edge surface [[(16)]] will create a pressure on an outer edge [[(36)]] of the joining profile [[(3)]] when two adjacent panels are forced together, the pressure causing the intermediate section [[(33)]] to be urged downwards.

11. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 10 wherein a portion [[(P)]] arranged between the upper side groove [[(12)]] and its respective distal edge portion [[(E)]] comprises a recess [[(14)]], the recess [[(14)]] being adapted to receive the lower portion of the intermediate section [[(33)]] when being urged downwards.

12. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the upper side groove is provided with a first groove edge surface [[(16)]] and a second groove edge surface [[(17)]] between the first and second groove edge surfaces (16 and 17 respectively) a predetermined distance [[(D)]] is present, the distance [[(D)]] being so configured that the snapping tongue [[(31)]] may be pressed in between the first and second groove edge surfaces (16 and 17 respectively).

13. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 12 wherein the first and second groove edge surfaces (~~16 and 17 respectively~~) are arranged so that an undercut is present, that the snapping tongue [[(31)]] of the joining profile [[(3)]] is adapted to the undercut so that a snap action locking effect is achieved.

14. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the tongue [[(21)]] is provided with at least one protrusion [[(27)]] and that the groove [[(11)]] is provided with recesses [[(18)]] arranged to mate with the at least one protrusion [[(27)]], that the at least one protrusion [[(27)]] with matching recess [[(17)]] is configured to allow a predetermined movement in the horizontal plane.

15. (Original) A joint according to claim 14 wherein the predetermined movement is in the range 0.05 mm - 1 mm.

16. (Currently Amended) A joint according to claim 2 wherein the joining profile [[(3)]] is provided with at least one compression zone [[(34)]].